



# THE RARA E-RAG

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## "Morse Code, Keys, Keys, Paddles and Things that go Dit in the Night."

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
Vice President, RaRa

For many, the dit's and dah's of Sam Morse's code sounds as foreign as Latin; maybe more! Whether you're a total no-coder, a dyed in the wool CW expert or somewhere in-between you'll definitely find this month's program interesting. But then again: Aren't they all??? As your VP and Program Director; I can only hope. Along with the budding flowers, spring traditionally heralds our club's Annual Old Timer's Night. That means a look back in history – not that the program is sponsored by Geritol! You can expect a bit of Morse code history including the development of keys and keyers. There will also be demonstrations, and an exciting look (but no touching) at keys you can buy today costing over two-thousand dollars.



Our presenter for the evening will be our club Historian Ed Gable, K2MP, who always provides a fun, entertaining and educational program. Just don't let him try to sell you anything - he has been known to slip into "Auctioneer mode" with no provocation – we're having the club doctor check his medication levels as we go to press. He should be fine by the meeting but there are no guarantees. You have been warned.

We would like you to bring your favorite and / or notable keys, bugs, and paddles to the meeting for a bit of show 'n tell. Ed will have devices set up for you to sample and try your fists on including keys, bugs, and paddles. This will be a great opportunity for anyone who has not had the opportunity to try some of these electro-mechanical marvels to get a hands-on test drive. Some will be straight forward, some quirky, and some downright amazing! Think about it: These keys were designed over 160 years ago, and Ed remembers when they were brand new. That's why he's the Historian!

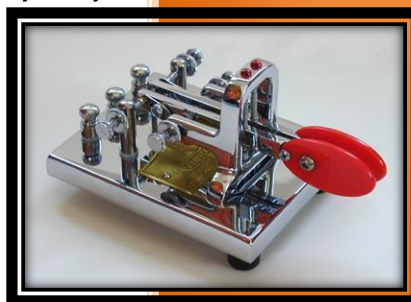
For those of you starting to break out in a cold sweat, don't worry, the presentation will be in English, by voice, no code required!

dit-dit-dit dah-dit-dah

That's Morse code for: See you on Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30pm in the Firehouse as usual, and remember; the donuts will be fresh and the coffee will be hot. As we learned last month from Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC: You can squeeze a lot of information into a little bit of data with those digital modes!!!

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## The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
President, RaRa

Education is one of the reasons why our club exists. Over the past years the club has purchased a pre-packaged set of ARRL manuals and has donated them to the various library systems in Monroe County. The club has just purchased another set of manuals that will be donated to the Pioneer Library System. It is a New York State chartered, cooperative public library system serving the forty-two public libraries in Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming and Livingston counties. The books will be delivered to the Canandaigua Library with a final stop at the Williamson Library in honor of Keith Freeberg, N2BEL (SK).

The Officers and Board of Directors have been discussing for some time now on what to do with the engraving equipment and the hat irons that it has owned for many years and were seeing very little activity. The thought that came up was loaning the equipment to a high school radio club as a money making opportunity to help support the school club. The Webster High School Radio Club was the chosen club and we wish them the best of luck on their new fund raising endeavor.

If you missed the March meeting you missed a good one. Our own Ross Mazzola (KC2LOC) put on a very nice presentation on digital modes. It was geared to those who are thinking about getting into the digital modes such as RTTY and PSK-31 or have just started. If you missed the presentation, the slide show will be on the RARA web site under Past Meeting Topics.

Don't forget to return your postage paid postcard that came with your Directory. The Board of Directors and Officers of the club want to hear from you and we made it easy and free for you to respond. Thank-you in advance for returning the postcard with your response.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at "Old Timers Night" on April 2, 2010. As always the coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be fresh!

## Need a short call for your next contest operation?

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY  
RARA QSL Manager

Why not sign out K2JD and see if a short call works for you. Here's the process:

1. Request the use of the club call sign K2JD for a specific period -- hours, days or a weekend -- from the Station Trustee, Jim DiTucci, N2IXD@arrl.net. Jim will schedule all the requests for that event, and reply with your assignment for using the K2JD callsign.
2. Operate the event and be sure to keep electronic log files: cabrillo or adif.
3. Send logs to QSL Manager Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY@arrl.net after the event.
4. Tell your friends how much fun you had!

## Calendar of Events

- Apr 2** RaRa Meeting  
7:30 PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Apr 7** RaRa Board of Directors  
5:30 PM, Northside Inn,  
East Rochester
- Apr 16** RRRRA Meeting  
8:00 PM, Pittsford Town Hall
- Apr 17** Drumlins Hamfest  
Marbletown Fiew Hall  
Newark NY
- Apr 17** VE Testing  
10:00 AM, RIT  
Bldg-9, Room 3139
- Apr 20** RDXA Meeting  
7:30 PM, 1190 Scottsville Rd  
Rm 200
- Apr 25** RDXA/RVHFG Annual Awards  
Banquet - Nick's Sea Breeze  
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\*Mom of Max, KC2SPY



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## Hamfest 2010 - Help Wanted!

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

If you were at last year's Hamfest at Barnard, you know how great it was to see all those people enjoying themselves at YOUR Hamfest. That's right, it is an event that is organized and run by fellow members of YOUR club.

The Hamfest committee is busy contacting vendors and clubs, ordering the tent and tables, working with the firemen and caterer to insure the food is as good and reasonably priced as last year and many other "behind the scenes" jobs which will make this year's Hamfest even better than last year.

However, we can't do this alone! Each year we ask you to take ownership of YOUR Hamfest and help out with some of the jobs that must be done. Some jobs are before the fest starts such as lining the flea market and setting up tables and signs, while others are on the day of the event (between 6AM & 2PM) like ticket sellers and flea market organizers. If you can just give 90 minutes it would really help YOUR club's major event of the year to be more successful and carry on the tradition of being one of the finest Hamfests around.

There will be signup sheets at the April and May RARA meetings, but in case you can't be at them and want to help, please let Peter Fournia know at: pfournia@rochester.rr.com

He will be coordinating a list of jobs and times needed and will get back to you, so be sure to give him your best email or phone contact information.

Let's work together since "Many hands make light work." See you at the 2010 Rochester Hamfest on June 5th.



### [The Rochester Hamfest – Building on a NEW Legacy!](#)

## Are you Moving or Temporarily Away?

By Dick Goslee, KG2I  
Editor RaRa RAG

If you have moved or are going to move or you are going to be temporarily away please let the RAG editor know this. When we mail the RAG the envelope has a statement on it for the Post Office to notify us of address changes. We pay a charge for these corrections and if it is a new address that is great. However if you are just going to be gone for a while we pay to just find out you were not there and didn't get the RAG. The "temporarily away" message does not tell us when you will return so we don't know when to restart sending the RAG. Please help us out and keep us informed. Thanks.

## VE NEWS

For the month of February we had seven candidates with 5 receiving their Technician license, 1 upgrade to General and 1 to Extra.

John	C. Herkimer	KC2WSM	T
David	Osofsky	KB2EJZ	T
Larry	A. Sill	KC2WSN	T
Peter	J. Sternberger	KC2WSO	T
Kevin	G. Tucker	KC2WSP	T
Todd	E. Heckleman	N2GYP	G
Raymond J.	Hall	KD2RAY	E

The April test session will be in our usual location, Bldg 9, Rm 3139 on the RIT campus. Registration starts at 10:00AM. Check the RARA website for additional information.



**RaRa Amateur Radio  
License Testing is held on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each  
Month, September through  
April.**

**Registration begins at  
10:00AM in RIT Building 9,  
Room 3139  
[\(click for map\)](#)**

**Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH  
for space reservations.**



## Public Service 2010

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI  
RARA Public Service Coordinator

Below is the list of local events that are being coordinated by local hams. Go to [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

**Tour de Cure** – Sun, June 13, 2010

**MS Bike Ride** – Sat & Sun, August 7 & 8, 2010

**Walnut Hill Driving Competition** – Wed thru Sun, August 11 - 15, 2010

**AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride** – Sun, August 22, 2010

**Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon** – Sun, September 12, 2010

**Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm** – Sat, September 25, 2010

**Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta** – Sun, September 26, 2010

**Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Sat & Sun, October 16 & 17, 2010

**NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Sat & Sun, October 30 & 31, 2010

## Amateur License Renewal, the Easy Way.

By Don Dunn, AB2NM

I recently noticed that my license was due for renewal in July. As I was within the within 90 days of the expiration date, thought it would be an adventure to renew on-line. Glad to tell you - it was very easy.

Start here:

[http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=cft&id=amateur&page=cft\\_renew\\_amateur](http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=cft&id=amateur&page=cft_renew_amateur)

You'll need your FCC Registration number (FRN). Depending on your comfort with computers, it may be useful to print the instructions out, in order to follow along on the various procedural steps. One small glitch - I needed to reset my CORES password. This only took a few moments; the entire process took perhaps 10 or 15 minutes total ... and that included getting a cold 807 from the 'fridge.

The printed license arrived today. The chronology was:

- Renewed Saturday 6-13
- FCC processed and printed Tuesday 6-16
- Renewed license document arrived Friday 6-19

The date of grant was 7-16-1999; the renewed license expires 7-16-2019. I did not 'lose a month'. I was edified, and surprised, to note that the grant date did not slide back to the date of renewal (6-16), unlike automobile inspections or registration renewals if done too early. (Perhaps the FCC could learn a few nefarious tricks from the NYS DMV?)

On the whole, I was surprised and pleased at how easy and efficient the process was. Next ... maybe LoTW.

*(Editor's Note: While this article was written last year the information is still current and it shows how easy it really is.)*

## FREE ARRL Licensing Manuals

Are you, or do you know, a young person interested in getting their TECH license?

If so, contact Dick Goslee  
([rgoslee@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rgoslee@rochester.rr.com))  
for a free ARRL Licensing Manual!

While supplies last - limited to quantities on hand.

## DRUMLINS HAMFEST - APRIL 17, 2010

Spring is here, and the local 'Hamfest Season' is about to start. The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. Will hold their 24th annual Hamfest on April 17, 2010. The location is the Marletown Fire Hall located at 6416 Silver Hill Rd., Newark, NY. The Hamfest opens to the public at 8:00AM.

For directions, maps and additional information go to the Drumlins Hamfest web site at: [www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm)

## Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE

Our first raffle prize for April is a KB9VBR 2 meter/440MHz J-Pole antenna for your home station, camping, or ecomm use. This is the original all copper 2 meter J-Pole antenna. Ruggedly constructed one piece design, this antenna will last practically forever. The specs for the two meter version are as follows: Overall length 69 inches, radiator 58 inches, matching stub 19 inches. An SO-239 connector is soldered on at the point of lowest SWR. Each antenna is individually tested and tuned for optimum performance on its respective band. The two meter antenna is tuned to 146MHz (1.2:1 SWR or less at 146MHz), and the SWR is 1.4:1 or less throughout the entire 2 meter band. This antenna also loads up on 70cm for excellent dual band performance. Gain on this omnidirectional antenna is about 3db over a 1/4 wave ground plane. This style of antenna has been said to outperform a Ringo Ranger.



Our second item is a VHF/UHF SWR/Wattmeter. This covers 120-500MHz and measures up to 150 watts of power. A coax jumper cable is included to go between the meter and your rig.

Our third prize is a pair of Radio Shack Lightweight Mono Headphones.

Specifications are:

Speaker: 28mm dia. 32-ohm dynamic Mylar®

Impedance: 16-ohm @ 1.0kHz

Power handling capacity: 100mW max

Frequency response: 20Hz-20kHz

Average SPL: 108dB ± 4dB

Accessory: 1/4-inch mono adapter plug

As this is the last meeting with regular prizes (in May we will have the usual "Shack Chair") we will also have some extra bonus prizes. Hopefully it will be warmer and the slush will be gone so come on out, have some fun, and be sure to see myself and Sue for raffle tickets.

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HAMFEST**  
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June 5th 2010**

## Scholarship Deadline is April 15, 2010

By Dick Goslee, KG2I

The deadline for submitting applications for the 10th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2010. The Scholarship is for \$1000 and applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at (585) 671-2424. Additional information and a copy of the application are also available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

## RDXA News

By Paul Kolacki, K2FX

Hams and ham radio have changed drastically over the last half-century. No longer are we builders and tinkers, cannibalizing discarded television sets for parts to make continuous wave transmitters. Today's radio amateur is an integrator of sophisticated software and hardware components, enabling the operator to customize systems capable of accomplishing a desired communications need.

Today, computers can be an integral part of amateur stations and are used for more than just basic logging. Much of our modern equipment is fully controllable with a computer. It's thus not surprising that automated operations are very popular among active hams. Green Heron Engineering is on the cutting edge when it comes to meeting the needs of 21st century communicators with the introduction of their microprocessor-based Universal Digital Rotator Controller. The Company Owner is our own Jeff Ach, W2FU.

We're excited about the April meeting of RDXA as W2FU will be our guest speaker. Jeff is also a well known contest, who will discuss what's new at his station, and talk about some of his great Rotator Control Products. Please come join us for what is sure to be an interesting and informative discussion.

The Rochester DX Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September thru May at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center located at 1190 Scottsville Rd, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14624. The April Meeting will be held on the 20th beginning at 7:30PM.

Finally, on Saturday April 24th, the joint RDXA & RVHFG Annual Awards Banquet will be held at Nick's Sea Breeze Inn from 1-4PM. If you are a member of either group, you're cordially invited to join us for an afternoon filled with fun, great food, prizes, and tales of those illusive DX Stations worked over the past year. Reservations are required! Please contact the RDXA Vice President to RSVP. You can reach Paul, K2FX by email at: K2FX@arrl.net. The deadline for reservations will be April 17th.



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## W1AW 2010 Winter Operating Schedule

### Morning Schedule:

1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

### Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)  
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

### Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

### Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975  
21.0675 28.0675 147.555  
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025  
21.095 28.095 147.555  
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160  
21.390 28.590 147.555

### Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM  
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM  
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

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## ARRL Atlantic Division 2010 Roundtable

by Chris Shalvoy, K2CS  
Atlantic Div. DXAC

I just returned from the 2010 Atlantic Division Roundtable in Binghamton, NY. WNY was well represented by myself, our own Lloyd Caves N2PU, Assistant Director and Section Manager Scott Bauer, W2LC.

Several other section managers and our Division heads, Bill Edgar, N3LLR and Tom Abernethy, W3TOM once again put on an outstanding day of education and exercised all revolving around our favorite pastime, amateur radio.

Having attended 2 years ago, I had some idea as what to expect. A team building exercise, reports from section managers and always some kind of "surprise". This years exercise saw us assemble a "sudo" tower with cups and build a "beam" with toothpicks and a few other components.

Each team "leader" was given instructions on how the station was to be built and then from memory, directed each group. The kicker was each supply of assembled components was shorted by a component or two.

A few things learned here, first, since this was deemed a "contest", no one asked any other group for assistance (ham competitiveness) and secondly, we made do with what we had (ham ingenuity).

After section reports and an open forum on division concerns, it was announced that we were to "simulate" an "emergency" and to activate our sections in any way we could. We were given a ½ hour to contact as many stations as possible thru whatever means we had. Lloyd hit the cell, I hit email and Scott began contacting emergency preparedness contacts within the WNY section. Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm was obviously non-conducive for many as we "worked" several answering machines.

When all was said and done, WNY "won" with 16 stations checking in. Thanks to K2DB for "activating" this net and those who worked him.

Delaware	15
Eastern PA	1
Maryland DC	7
Northern NY	5
Southern NJ	0
Western NY	16
Western PA	0
Total	44

This was an interesting exercise to say the least with cells, Echolink, APRS and emails all being used to initiate the exercise.

Feel confident that the Atlantic Division is represented by some of the finest hams you'd ever want to meet.

### RaRa Club LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items.

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>



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### RaRa Memorial Scholarship

**Application  
Deadline  
April 15, 2010**

## RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: February, 1990

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian



Following a long tradition, this was RaRa's Old Timers Night for 1990. RaRa's Historian and Co-founder and then current Curator of the AWA Museum, Mr. Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, promised to highlight club activities of the 1930's and 1940's.

"Get Lost in the Woods" was the title of an article by Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ, who wrote to encourage participation in the STPR road rally in Wellsboro, PA. Roger, the STPR committee/radio liaison chair, told of significant changes to the course this year. The STPR, a professional road rally held on logging roads around Wellsboro, PA, depended entirely on Amateur Radio Communications. RaRa typically sent around 20 hams to support the event.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, wrote for RaRa thanking volunteers who showed up at the annual "lick 'em and stick 'em" party where members applied 12,000 labels to Hamfest Brochures for mailing.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, penned an article encouraging all RaRa folks to join in this year's Field Day weekend. The first task for the participants is to build antennas for the event.

Bob Fortman, WE2T, writing for the RDXA, invited folks to their next meeting at 111 Westfall Road, where the topic was a discussion on better antennas.

In this issue the Public Service Announcement had 18 events scheduled for RaRa members to participate in.

Wayne King, N2WK, finished his series of three articles on the hotly contested ARRL VHF contest and the local Rochester Cup race. First place for the Cup was again taken this year by the Rochester DX Association, closely followed by the Xerox ARC, with the Kodak gang taking third place.

This issue included Volume 4 of the ArAr Gag spoof on April Fool's day. With regret it was reported that Harry Lott, W2ARX, was reported a Silent Key.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Kenwood TS-520 from El Wagner, WB2BNJ for \$375.00. A new commercial advertiser was Robert Collesano, KC2YC, promoting "Stop Drops" dieting aids.

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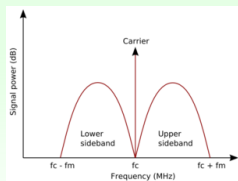
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## Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

**W1AW Changes Digital Schedule.** In mid-March W1AW began alternating modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions. While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 are still part of the digital mode offering, the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and MFSK16. Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used. With the new schedule, amateurs preferring either PSK31 or MFSK16 will find these modes no longer secondary. The regular call up will be made using the mode that is transmitted first. The digital bulletin times remain at 6 PM and 9 PM eastern, daily. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will continue to be sent using just Baudot and PSK31. The new digital schedule is as follows: Monday – Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16; Tuesday – PSK31, MFSK16, Baudot; Wednesday – MFSK16, Baudot, PSK31; Thursday – Baudot, PSK31, MFSK16; Friday – PSK31, Baudot, MFSK16. Given time constraints and bulletin lengths, all three modes may not always be transmitted. The complete W1AW schedule can be found on page 100 of the January issue of QST, or on the web at: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>.

**Chilean Earthquake Frequencies.** In response to the massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on February 27, 2010, IARU Region 2 and the Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio (RECNA) have suggested Amateur Radio operators monitor the following emergency communications frequencies for traffic pertaining to the earthquake: 3.738, 3.750, 7.050, 7.100, 14.200, 14.350, 21.200, 21.350, 28.300 and 28.500 MHz. IARU Region 2 Area Emergency Coordinator Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, reports that there is now traffic at frequencies of 40 meters from people seeking information from people in Chile: "We would appreciate if amateurs would leave free the frequencies used by RECNA, as well as the usual IARU Region 2 frequencies on in 20, 40 and 80 meters." In addition to the above frequencies, you may also want to listen to the worldwide emergency communication Center of Activity frequencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. Other suggested monitoring frequencies are 3.720, 7.045 and 7.060 MHz. Source: **ARRL email bulletin**

**AMSAT Close Encounter.** On Sunday evening, February 28, AMSAT-NA Vice President of Operations, Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, received an e-mail alert from the US Joint Space Operations Center, warning of the close approach between AMSAT-OSCAR 51 and another spacecraft known as Formosat 3D that would take place the following morning. "There is really nothing we can do other than watch and try to collect telemetry," Glasbrenner said. "Of course, any contact would mean instant death for OSCAR 51. It's all predictive until they smack together, but the estimate was that they would come within 2900 feet overall, but only 130 feet radially. I'm visualizing that scenario as one car merging on a highway at 17,500 MPH with another car 2900 feet in front and 130 feet to the left or right. Scale the 17,500 MPH to 70 MPH and the distances in the analogy would be 12 feet in front and 6 inches abreast, just to put the velocity and distances in perspective!" By late morning, Glasbrenner determined that OSCAR 51 passed the other satellite unscathed. See <http://tinyurl.com/ydfw7m3>.

**High School Has ARES Team.** The Long Beach (CA) *Gazettes.Com* reports that Wilson High School has an active amateur radio program. The article correctly acknowledges that when conventional modes of communication fail (as we've seen in two recent earthquakes), ham radio can step in to provide emergency communications. To that end, Wilson High has its own ARES team of 12 members. The program's advisor is Devon Day, KF6KEE, an English teacher at the school. She noted that her students "learn the significance of having a strong work ethic and exhibiting responsibility." She added that the students understand the value of this work and realize that "they can do something for the community that can save lives." For all the details, see <http://tinyurl.com/y9chul3>.

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## Make that Vintage Kenwood Radio Talk to Your Computer

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

So you think your old radio won't do the things some of the new ones do. Well it is a known fact that the older radios are short on fancy menus and bells and whistles, but since when do you need them to be a Ham and make contacts.

I recently embarked upon a project to make my Kenwoods talk to my computer. After a small learning curve, I came across the proper combination of what was needed.

For the Kenwood 940SAT: This is a superb receiver easily repaired with tons of info on the web as well as a Yahoo group dedicated to keeping them on the air. One of these in real good shape can go for \$650 or more, but they can be had for less.

The first thing I needed for my project was an IF-232C unit to make the computer understand "Kenwood Talk". This is just a converter needed to take the TTL level from the Kenwood and converts it to RS-232. The second item is the IF-10B unit that was needed. It is a daughter board for the PLL board. The PLL board is real easy to get to.

The third thing was the code for the EPROM needed for this venture. I needed to get an EPROM burner and a M2732-45 chip which I found two of on an old circuit board. I borrowed a UV eraser from a local ham and cleared the EPROMS. I then purchased the latest Willem EPROM burner. I was finally able to figure out what to do and successfully burned 2 EPROMS and they worked!! Now I could have bought the chip for \$25.00 with the code, but then my blood pressure would drop from not getting upset at the burner. The upset factor keeps the blood flowing. Just kidding, it was fairly easy and once I understood it and had it programmed properly, it was done in a flash.

Now here is the issue: The IF-10B board and the IF-232C are fairly rare. You can build an IF-10B board and if you want the instructions just email me and I will get them for you. The IF-232C is also rare to find and can be replaced with some of the newer items from manufacturers like Piexx. I like things natural and original so I searched and it only took an hour or so and I found both units.

Once the EPROM and the IF-10B are placed in the 940, the IF-232C has a connector that fits in accessory jack 1 on the back of the radio. The other cable goes to a 9 pin serial port on your PC. Even the IF-232 can be built to replace looking for the Kenwood unit. Open up programs like Ham Radio Deluxe and you will see how neat it is to have this feature. HRD and others have a spotting program that tells you the call and frequency a spotter found. Click on that station and the radio takes you right to them. Along with other features, this is the one I use the most. It saves a lot of tuning the dial. The only thing you have to do is know the mode you will be operating in.

As far as the 440S and the 680S along with other vintage Kenwood radios, these units only need two chips to get the radio to talk to the IF-232C unit. These chips are cheap and cost maybe \$5.00 for the pair. This pair of chips is known as IF-10C. There is also an IF-10A which may be for a TS-930. The IF-10D is for the TS-50 and TS-2000.

So there ya go, nice vintage radios can and will work in the 21st century computer world. With a little digging on the internet, you can find one way or another to make them work. Not only did I complete my goal of a CAT operated Radio; I learned about and programmed an EPROM and found that I can build both units that are rare to find today.

These vintage radios are well worth saving as they cost a lot less than today's latest radios; they are solid and 99% of any issues are easily repaired by yourself or a Ham like me. If that is not possible, there is a guy in Texas that is the GOD of these radios and his prices are reasonable. You won't be sorry if you buy one and have to fix it. There is nothing wrong with these vintage units at all and they will match or outdo any radio of today in its class.

The biggest issues you will run into are capacitors that have gone bad on the AVR power board or a PLL out of lock. Not a problem. For \$40.00 a gentleman in Canada has a rebuild kit for just that purpose and the PLL out of lock issue has a solid fix available on the web. Have fun.



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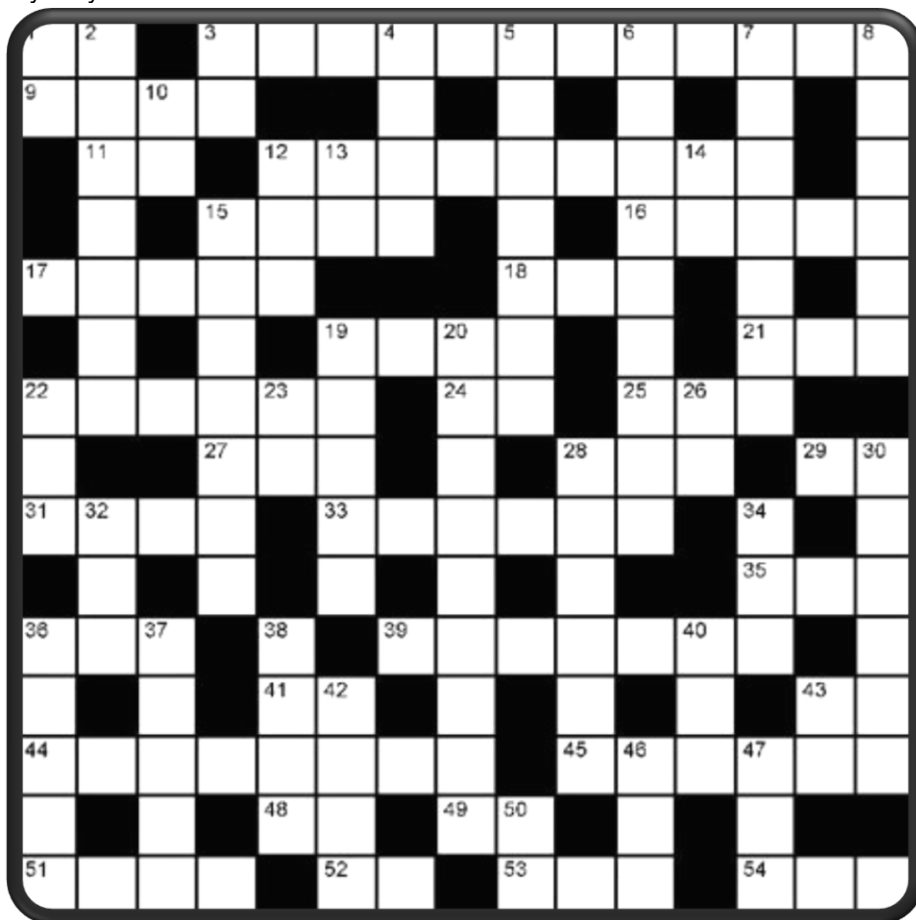
# The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler (#7192)

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

DXing, county hunting, WAS and even Ragchewer's Club--what ham doesn't occasionally succumb to the lure of fame and fortune, to the desire to chase after the buried treasure lurking out there on the bands? Each award and prize has its own quirks and quips--how many do you know?

## Across

1. CQ Zone 15 country prefix
3. Paper awards
9. Get a tip to be in the...
11. Determine a bearing (abbr.)
12. Test one's ability
15. Pirate's name
16. Controlled
17. Break through a pileup
18. Type of interference (abbr.)
19. Popular QST column ".... DX?"
21. Fall asleep - ... off
22. Early father of DXCC
24. Beam towards a point
25. Small unit of energy
27. Marks east-west location (abbr.)
28. Finish
29. VE7 abbreviation
31. Color of lagoon water
33. Russian region
35. Computer processor (abbr.)
36. You're done when you've worked this many
39. Award administrator
41. Read-only (abbr.)
43. Small VHF radio (abbr.)
44. Canadian region
45. DXCC unit
48. Another CQ Zone 15 country prefix
49. Regarding (abbr.)
51. Appendage glasses rest upon
52. Opposite of OM
53. Convex trophy
54. Circuit (abbr.)



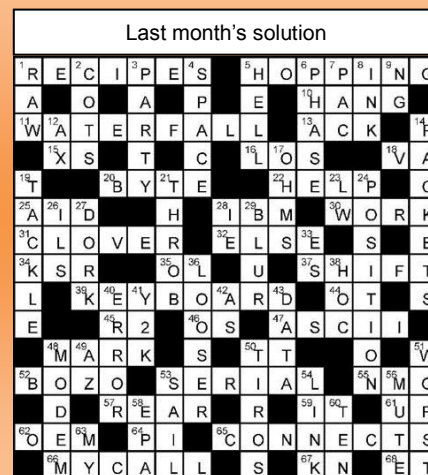
See next month's **RaRa e-RAG** for the solution.

## Down

1. Yet another CQ Zone 15 country prefix
2. Approve
3. First digital mode
4. Competitive group members
5. Live life to its...
6. Six of these on earth
7. A busy pileup
8. What the palm trees did to the DXpeditioners
10. Grouchy elder (abbr.)
12. Clock (abbr.)
13. A state and a laugh
14. Wire size (abbr.)
15. A learned individual
19. The best roll
20. Slang for awards
22. Failed at introduction (abbr.)

23. Direction toward a point
26. Read (abbr.)
28. Collection of deceased's property
30. Regions within U.S. states
32. The final courtesy
34. Rule for certification of contacts (abbr.)
36. Type of horn blown in Switzerland
37. Hunt these in the air
38. Divides the earth into squares
40. Do this when the dinner bell rings
42. The sole station
43. Height (abbr.)
46. A short snooze
47. The DX-er's currency
50. Local ARES leader (abbr.)

Last month's solution





# THE RARA E-RAG

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**April e-Rag Deadline**  
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